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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Increase in the Number of Political Officers
in the Soviet Armed Forces

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1. "It has been ascertained that from the end of 1953 and the beginning of 1954, the number of political officers in the Soviet armed forces has been increased considerably.
2. "Until 1953 all military-political publications maintained that the company (battery) commanders and other officers on corresponding posts received such a thorough political education that they were 'one-man commanders' (edino-nachalniki) and alone and individually are responsible for the ideological and political education of the soldiers, sergeants, and officers subordinated to them.
3. "The new 'Manual of the Internal Service of the Armed Forces of the USSR' (Ustav vnutrennoi sluzhby vooruzhennykh sil SSSR), published by the Ministry of Defence in 1953, states in Chapter III on the officers of companies (batteries) that the post of 'deputy commander (battery) for political affairs' has been introduced again.
4. "The military-political publications try to maintain that these new political deputies are subordinate to the company commanders and that the company commanders continue to remain 'one-man commanders'. However, according to the new regulations these political officers are the 'direct superiors of the entire personnel of the company (battery)' and the eyes of the Communist Party.
5. "When this new increase of political personnel of the army was introduced, it was particularly emphasized that political instruction in the armed forces is the main guarantee of the power of the USSR, that every future war will be turned into a class war and that, therefore, the Soviet army must be specially well trained politically.
6. "In connection with this reform, the 'Instruction Concerning the Komsomol Organization in the Company (Battery)' has also been changed. Hitherto the work of the Komsomol organization in a company (battery) was controlled by the company commander. According to the new instructions the work of the bureau of the Komsomol organization in the company (battery) is controlled by the deputy commander of the company (battery) for political affairs. Also, it must inform this political officer of everything it has observed"

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